

Amendments to the Claims:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A real-time virus tracking and display ~~apparatus-system~~ for use with a distributed computer network, the ~~apparatus-system~~ comprising:

a plurality of client users having potentially infected client computers;

at least one anti-virus scanning server accessible via the distributed computer network, whereby the client users contact the server to facilitate virus scanning of the client computers;

a scan log of information which is sent back from each client user detailing certain results of the virus scanning on each client computer;

a virus-tracking server for ~~real-time-receiving and processing~~ the scan log information in real-time;

a database server associated with the virus-tracking server for processing the scan log information into virus-tracking information; and

at least one virus tracking display mode accessible by a tracking user from the virus tracking server, the display mode providing real-time updates of said virus tracking information pertaining to the scan logs.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The ~~apparatus-system~~ according to Claim 1, wherein the tracking user can configure the display modes to show the virus-tracking information in association with user-selected geographic maps of where the viruses are occurring.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The ~~apparatus-system~~ according to Claim 2, wherein the display modes includes a plurality of web pages with user selectable menus to configure the virus tracking display mode on the pages.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The ~~apparatus-system~~ according to Claim 1, wherein the scan log information contains no information relating to the direct identification of the client user.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The ~~apparatus-system~~ according to Claim 4, wherein the scan log information includes the name of the virus, the frequency of its occurrence, and the geographic location of the infected computer.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The ~~apparatus-system~~ according to Claim 1, wherein a servlet program on the virus-tracking server is used to receive the scan log information from the at least one anti-virus scanning server.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The ~~apparatus-system~~ according to Claim 1, wherein a polling program is used to regularly retrieve the virus tracking information from the database server and store it in a data object.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The ~~apparatus-system~~ of Claim 7, wherein a common gateway interface (CGI) program is used to retrieve the data object for display by the tracking user.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): The ~~apparatus-system~~ of Claim 1, wherein a Java applet running on a tracking user browser is used to display a real-time virus ~~tracing~~ trace map.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): The ~~apparatus-system~~ of Claim 1, wherein the client user is also the tracking user.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): The ~~apparatus-system~~ of Claim 1, wherein the distributed computer network of includes the Internet.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): A method to provide real-time virus tracking and display for use with a distributed computer network, the method comprising:

providing an anti-virus scanning program on at least one anti-virus scanning server accessible via the distributed computer network;

invoking the anti-virus scanning program from a plurality of client users having potentially infected client computers;

generating a scan log from each scanned client computer and sending ~~it~~ the scan log back from each client user, the scan log detailing certain results of the ~~virus scan-scanning program~~ on each client computer;

receiving ~~and processing~~ the scan log ~~information~~ in real-time via a virus tracking server associated with the distributed computer network;

processing the scan log information into virus tracking information and storing it on a database server associated with the virus-tracking server; and

retrieving the virus tracking information; and displaying a real-time trace on a tracking user device.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): The method according to Claim 12, which further includes configuring ~~the display~~ modes by the tracking user to show the virus-tracking information in association with user-selected geographic maps of where the viruses are occurring.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): The method according to Claim 13, which further includes displaying the display modes via a plurality of web pages with user selectable menus to configure the virus-tracking ~~display~~ information on the pages.

Claim 15 (Original): The method according to Claim 12, wherein the scan log contains no information relating to the direct identification of the client user.

Claim 16 (Original): The method according to Claim 15, wherein the scan log includes the name of the virus, the frequency of its occurrence, and the geographic location of the infected computer.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): The method according to Claim 12, which further includes providing a servlet program on the virus-tracking server to receive the scan log ~~information~~ from the at least one anti-virus scanning server.

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): The method according to Claim 12, which further includes providing a polling program to regularly retrieve ~~the~~ virus tracking information from the database server and store it in a data object.

Claim 19 (Original): The method of Claim 18, which further includes providing a common gateway interface (CGI) program to retrieve the data object for display by the tracking user.

Claim 20 (Currently Amended): The ~~apparatus~~ method of Claim 12, which further includes running a Java applet on the browser of the tracking user device to display a real-time virus ~~tracing~~ trace map.

Claim 21 (Currently Amended): The ~~apparatus~~method of Claim 12, wherein the client user is also the tracking user.

Claim 22 (Currently Amended): The ~~apparatus~~method of Claim 12, wherein the distributed computer network of includes the Internet.